

the table, back to Congress, that actually make a difference.

To say that this is a rush to extremism, or to say that this is NEWT GINGRICH's radical Contract With America, simply is not true, and denies reality in this country. This is not a rush to extremism, this is a recognition of what America has so sorely needed for 40 years. We have had real leadership, we have had real change, and we have a real reason to tell America that Congress again works.

If we were so off the beaten path, if we were being so radical, then why would the country's approval rating of Congress storm up from 18 percent to almost 50 percent today, on the 50th day? The reason why is obvious, because we are doing what Americans have elected us to do. We are making a difference.

This is not about ideology, it is about what works, and just wait for the second 50 days. You ain't seen nothing yet.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER FROM H.R. 867

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 867.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York.

There was no objection.

220 MEMBERS OF THE MAJORITY PARTY VOTED TO DENY AMERICANS CONTINUATION OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I happened to hear the comments of the gentleman before me, about all the things that the new Republican majority has done for the people of America. Last night they had an opportunity to do one of the greatest things they could have done for the people of America, and they did not.

They did not give the people of America the same protection that every Member of Congress has, should we decide to leave Congress, or should the voters decide for us that we should leave.

Mr. Speaker, if a Member of Congress wishes to leave or gets fired by the American people, he can buy back into the House insurance by paying the full cost of the premium. Unfortunately for most Americans, if they lose their job,

member should develop cancer, leukemia, or any other horrible disease, they are then locked to their job for life, because when they go to apply to a new employer for a better job, that employer is going to find out that they have cancer, they have leukemia, or a family member has it, and they will either be told they cannot take the job, or they cannot get insurance at any price.

Mr. Speaker, last night this body, this Contract With America, had the opportunity to change that for 4 million American people; nothing special, just give them the same breaks that you and I have, Mr. Speaker, you and I who have families, you and I who have kids that can get sick.

The same good deal for a Congressman ought to be a good deal for the rest of the people of America, but it was not included in the Contract With America. We did not even give 4 million people the opportunity to just buy their own insurance policy through their former employer. That is wrong.

So for all the talk of accountability, for all the talk of putting people first, the bottom line is that only 4 Members of the majority party voted for the motion to recommit, but 222 of the majority party thumbed their noses at the people of America.

I would really like to hear of any Member of this body on either side of the aisle explain why it is OK for them to have permanent coverage under health insurance, to be able to buy into this policy, pay 100 percent of the cost when you leave, but it is not OK for the people we represent to have that same privilege.

Last night, 220 Members of the majority party, almost all of them, said that is not right, they would not do it. That is not fair, that is not accountable, and that is not putting Congress under the same laws as the American people.

This is going to be a long session. We should be here at least until Thanksgiving. I want to encourage especially the newer Members of the majority party, who are most likely to want to change things, to take a second look at this. Let us try to be as fair to the American people as Congress is to itself.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CONGRESS, 50 DAYS INTO THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. TIAHRT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, what a day it was today. Fifty days into the session, and we have had much to rejoice about and celebrate about. Today we had a news conference and talked about some of the things we have accomplished. Today America faces a brighter future because of what we have done in the first 50 days.

We have passed the balanced budget amendment, and not only does that make sense for us as we live our lives out today, but it also makes sense for my children and my grandchildren, who I do not even know yet, because they have not been born, but I know that we are not going to pass on a debt to them.

We are going to keep our spending in line. We are on a plan to balance the budget by the year 2002.

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It is a good plan, we are holding to it, and we are doing it because it is important to the people of America. That is why we face a brighter future.

We are also regaining trust in America, because we have changed Congress. We have changed the way we are doing business here in Washington.

On opening day, we required Congress to live under the same laws as the rest of America does. We limited committee chairmanships, we eliminated proxy voting, we in fact changed the way business is done. It is something that has been called for for a long time. And we finally accomplished that in the first 50 days.

We are also now more accountable as a Federal Government than we were 50 days ago. We passed unfunded mandate reform that makes Congress accountable for the actions. When we impose unfunded mandates, we are going to try and eliminate that because we know what they will cost now and we will understand what we are passing on to local governments.

I think it is very evident that Congress is listening more now than it did 50 days ago. We have a crime package that addresses the real true problem. We are not doing midnight basketball, we are not having dance lessons for Federal inmates. What we are doing is block grants to local communities, because they are the ones that can determine best how to spend their money. Do they need new computer systems? Do they need new troopers, new cars